

A RESOLUTION commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Kentucky Civil Rights Act of 1966 and its administrative enforcement by the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights.

WHEREAS, on January 27, 1966, Governor Edward T. Breathitt signed the Kentucky Civil Rights Act of 1966 into law, which prohibited discrimination in employment and public accommodations based on race, color, national origin, or religion; and

WHEREAS, prior to the passage of the Kentucky Civil Rights Act, discrimination in employment and public accommodations was not only practiced in Kentucky, it was often required by state law; and

WHEREAS, thousands of citizens of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, from all walks of life, struggled bravely and patiently to achieve passage of the Kentucky Civil Rights Act of 1966, overcoming seemingly insurmountable obstacles and setbacks; and

WHEREAS, upon passing of the Kentucky Civil Rights Act of 1966, Kentucky became the first state south of the Mason-Dixon Line to enact civil rights legislation that not only prohibited discrimination in employment and public accommodations, but also included administrative and judicial enforcement powers; and

WHEREAS, at the time of its passage, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. proclaimed the Kentucky Civil Rights Act to be "...the strongest and most comprehensive civil rights bill passed by a Southern state"; and

WHEREAS, subsequent to its passage, the Kentucky Civil Rights Act of 1966 became a model for other Southern states to enact similar civil rights legislation; and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Civil Rights Act of 1966 conferred administrative enforcement powers upon the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights; and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights is the state agency charged with the enforcement of the Kentucky Civil Rights Act, which has been expanded by a succession of amendments to prohibit discrimination in employment,

public accommodations, housing, and credit transactions based on race, national origin, religion, sex, age, familial status (housing only), disability, and smoking status (employment only); and

WHEREAS, since the passage of the Kentucky Civil Rights Act of 1966, along with its expanded protections, the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights has filed, investigated, and adjudicated more than 11,000 complaints of discrimination in employment, public accommodations, housing, and credit transactions, all to the great benefit of the citizens of the Commonwealth of Kentucky;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. The members of the Senate stand united in their commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the Kentucky Civil Rights Act.

➔Section 2. The members of the Senate stand united in commending the diligent work of the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights to enforce the Kentucky Civil Rights Act, thereby promoting civil rights and providing a great service to all citizens of the Commonwealth.

➔Section 3. The Senate encourages all Kentuckians to celebrate the achievements this great Commonwealth has made in the area of civil rights and give pause to recall the many sacrifices of the men and women who so bravely pushed for the enactment of the Kentucky Civil Rights Act of 1966.

➔Section 4. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Senator Gerald A. Neal.